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| EXAMINER | |
|---|---|
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 09/893,353 | CHANG, GLEN C. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Kirubel Aklilu | 2614 | |

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --*

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *26 June 2001*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-65* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-65* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *02 January 2002* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *6/26/01;12/31/01*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Objections*

Claim 61 is objected to because of the following informalities: The claim recites "The article of manufacture of **claim 61**". The examiner believes the claim should read "The article of manufacture of **claim 60**". Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims **1-42** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Alexander et al. (U.S. Patent # 6,177,931).

1. As for **Claim 1**, Alexander et al. teach a method of executing an event in an interactive television system (see col.1 lines 36-40 "The present invention relates generally to television systems, and more particularly, to the display of, and recording

control interface with, television programs, video, advertising information and program scheduling information."), the method comprising:

associating a function with a location in an environment of the interactive television system (see fig. 1 unit 10 display and Grid 22, col. 3 lines 1-20 "In FIG. 1, a television screen display 10 is shown . . . The remainder of the screen area is typically occupied (moving from top to bottom of the screen) by an action key bar 18, a navigation bar 20, a grid guide 22 ("Grid Guide"), and an information box 24 (the "detailed information area)." The display 10 is interpreted to be an environment of the interactive television system and the grid 22 is interpreted to be locations within the environment that have associated functions); and

in response to a selection of the function, enabling an event associated with the function (see col. 4 lines 49-61 "From grid guide 22 the viewer moves to navigation bar 20 by pressing arrow key 28. Initially, the center button is highlighted. To highlight a different button, arrow key 32 or 34 is pressed. To enter the screen represented by the highlighted button, "select" key 42 is pressed." When a viewer enters the selected screen that is highlighted to view a program, it is interpreted that an event is enabled associated with a function.).

2. As for **Claim 2**, Alexander et al. teaches the function includes at least one feature associated with the location (see col. 4 lines 49-56 "Highlighting of windows and/or viewer selections from the Grid Guide and/or navigation and EPG on screen display components may be accomplished in a number of other ways. For instance, the border

of a selected window, or the selected Grid Guide or navigation component, can be made to appear to flash." Highlighting a grid is interpreted to be a feature of a location in the display environment).

3. As for **Claim 3**, Alexander et al. teach enabling the event comprises selecting one of the features to execute an application associated with the feature (see col. 4 lines 49-56 "In grid guide 22 the viewer moves cursor 36 to highlight one of the nine tiles in which channel and title are displayed by pressing arrow keys 28 and 30. The viewer can view program listings scheduled at future times by pressing keys 32 or 34 to move horizontally about the Grid." The feature of the program guide that shows the listing of future programs is interpreted to be an application that is executed).

4. As for **Claim 4**, Alexander et al. teach enabling the event comprises selecting one of the features to provide information associated with the feature (see col. 4 lines 49-56 "In grid guide 22 the viewer moves cursor 36 to highlight one of the nine tiles in which channel and title are displayed by pressing arrow keys 28 and 30. The viewer can view program listings scheduled at future times by pressing keys 32 or 34 to move horizontally about the Grid." The listing of the future programs is interpreted to be information associated with the feature).

5. As for **Claim 5**, Alexander et al. teach requiring verification input if the location is a restricted location (see col. 17 lines 14-36 "In the Parental Control Function, the Parent

selects the channels and programs that can be visible in the Grid Guide for a particular viewer and selects channels and/or programs that are to be blocked from viewing. Child viewers, as identified during setup procedure, will view a simplified Grid Guide and will be blocked from viewing the programs so marked by the Parent. In one embodiment, individual viewers are identified by viewer ID and password.").

6. As for **Claim 6**, Alexander et al. teach prior to enabling the event, determining if the function has an active status (see col. col. 3 line 56 – col. 4 line 12 "The PIP Window can be locked or unlocked. The "lock/unlock" mode is user controlled . . . If the viewer selects the "lock" status, the last channel to which the tuner was set in the PIP Window continues to be displayed regardless of the actions exercised by the viewer. In the unlocked status, the channel highlighted by cursor 36 in Grid Guide 22 is displayed if the Grid Guide is displaying currently telecast programs and the last currently telecast channel that was highlighted is displayed if the Grid Guide is displaying future programs." The lock/unlock modes are interpreted to be active/inactive features of a function. When the lock status is active, the last channel to which the tuner was set is shown in the PIP window. It is interpreted that prior to showing the last channel to which the tuner was set in the PIP window, the interactive television system inherently determines if the lock feature has an active status).

7. As for **Claim 7**, Alexander et al. teach customizing a feature in one of the functions (see col. 17 lines 14-36 "In the Parental Control Function, the Parent selects the

channels and programs that can be visible in the Grid Guide for a particular viewer and selects channels and/or programs that are to be blocked from viewing. Child viewers, as identified during setup procedure, will view a simplified Grid Guide and will be blocked from viewing the programs so marked by the Parent." Employing parental control is interpreted to be customization features of the EPG grid.).

8. As for **Claim 8**, Alexander et al. teach setting the feature in one of active state or inactive state (see col. col. 3 line 56 – col. 4 line 12 "The PIP Window can be locked or unlocked. The "lock/unlock" mode is user controlled . . . If the viewer selects the "lock" status, the last channel to which the tuner was set in the PIP Window continues to be displayed regardless of the actions exercised by the viewer. In the unlocked status, the channel highlighted by cursor 36 in Grid Guide 22 is displayed if the Grid Guide is displaying currently telecast programs and the last currently telecast channel that was highlighted is displayed if the Grid Guide is displaying future programs." The lock/unlock modes are interpreted to be active/inactive features of a function.).

9. As for **Claim 9**, Alexander et al. teach additional video is displayed with a representation of the feature or function (see col. 3 lines 56-61 "The viewer enters the Guide Mode illustrated in FIG. 1 by "select" key. A real time television program is displayed in window 12. A translucent overlay of the PIP window 12 can display the title, channel (local number and/or station name), and status (locked or unlocked) of window 12 over the television program so the viewer can still see the entire image . . . In

the unlocked status, the channel highlighted by cursor 36 in Grid Guide 22 is displayed if the Grid Guide is displaying currently telecast programs and the last currently telecast channel that was highlighted is displayed if the Grid Guide is displaying future programs." The video displayed in PIP window 12 is interpreted to be additional video that represents the current channel that is highlighted in the EPG grid).

10. As for **Claim 10**, Alexander et al. teach additional text is displayed with a representation of the feature or function (see col. 4 lines 49-56 "In grid guide 22 the viewer moves cursor 36 to highlight one of the nine tiles in which channel and title are displayed by pressing arrow keys 28 and 30. The viewer can view program listings scheduled at future times by pressing keys 32 or 34 to move horizontally about the Grid." The listing of the future programs is interpreted to be additional text representing the feature).

11. As for **Claim 11**, Alexander et al. teach creating a personal room function associated with a restricted-access location in the environment of the interactive television system (see col. 17 lines 14-36 "In the Parental Control Function, the Parent selects the channels and programs that can be visible in the Grid Guide for a particular viewer and selects channels and/or programs that are to be blocked from viewing. Child viewers, as identified during setup procedure, will view a simplified Grid Guide and will be blocked from viewing the programs so marked by the Parent.

In one embodiment, individual viewers are identified by viewer ID and password." When a password is used to create an EPG guide with restricted-access, it is interpreted that a personal room function is created wherein the EPG is personalized to a person with a viewer ID and password).

12. As for **Claim 12**, Alexander et al. teach activating at least one feature associated with the personal room function (see col. 4 lines 49-56 "In grid guide 22 the viewer moves cursor 36 to highlight one of the nine tiles in which channel and title are displayed by pressing arrow keys 28 and 30. The viewer can view program listings scheduled at future times by pressing keys 32 or 34 to move horizontally about the Grid." When a user is in a password protected EPG display, viewing the listing of the future programs is interpreted to be activating a feature associated with the personal room function).

13. As for **Claim 13 and 27**, Alexander et al. teach an article of manufacture, comprising:

a machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions to (see col. 5 lines 21-52 "One embodiment of the hardware for this invention includes a circuit board consisting of a gate array that provides all of the control functions for access by the processor (e.g., Motorola 68000), control of memory (dynamic RAM and external ROM) . . ." It is interpreted that the hardware for the invention is a machine-readable medium having instructions stored therein to carry out the limitations of the claim):

associate a function with a location in an environment of the interactive television system (see fig. 1 unit 10 display and Grid 22, col. 3 lines 1-20 "In FIG. 1, a television screen display 10 is shown . . . The remainder of the screen area is typically occupied (moving from top to bottom of the screen) by an action key bar 18, a navigation bar 20, a grid guide 22 ("Grid Guide"), and an information box 24 (the "detailed information area)." The display 10 is interpreted to be an environment of the interactive television system and the grid 22 is interpreted to be locations within the environment that have associated functions); and

in response to a selection of the function, enable an event associated with the function (see col. 4 lines 49-61 "From grid guide 22 the viewer moves to navigation bar 20 by pressing arrow key 28. Initially, the center button is highlighted. To highlight a different button, arrow key 32 or 34 is pressed. To enter the screen represented by the highlighted button, "select" key 42 is pressed." When a viewer enters the selected screen that is highlighted to view a program, it is interpreted that an event is enabled associated with a function.).

14. As for **Claim 14 and 28**, the limitations of Claims 14 and 28 fall within the limitations of Claim 13. Claims 14 and 28 are analyzed and rejected accordingly. Claims 14 and 28 further require means for carrying out the limitations of the Claims. The remote control buttons as presented by Alexander et al. are interpreted to be the means to carry out the limitations of the Claim. See Fig. 2 remote control buttons.

15. As for **Claim 15**, Alexander et al. teach a method of organizing information in an interactive television system (see col.1 lines 36-40 "The present invention relates generally to television systems, and more particularly, to the display of, and recording control interface with, television programs, video, advertising information and program scheduling information."), the method comprising:

displaying a function that is associated with a location in an environment of the interactive television system (see fig. 1 unit 10 display and Grid 22, col. 3 lines 1-20 "In FIG. 1, a television screen display 10 is shown . . . The remainder of the screen area is typically occupied (moving from top to bottom of the screen) by an action key bar 18, a navigation bar 20, a grid guide 22 ("Grid Guide"), and an information box 24 (the "detailed information area)." The display 10 is interpreted to be an environment of the interactive television system and the grid 22 is interpreted to be locations within the environment that have associated functions); and

in response to a selection of the function, enabling an event associated with the function (see col. 4 lines 49-61 "From grid guide 22 the viewer moves to navigation bar 20 by pressing arrow key 28. Initially, the center button is highlighted. To highlight a different button, arrow key 32 or 34 is pressed. To enter the screen represented by the highlighted button, "select" key 42 is pressed." When a viewer enters the selected screen that is highlighted to view a program, it is interpreted that an event is enabled associated with a function.).

16. As for **Claims 16-26**, the limitations of the claims fall within the limitations of claims 2-12 as rejected above. Claims 16-26 are analyzed and rejected accordingly.

29. As for **Claim 29**, Alexander et al. teach a method of organizing information in an interactive television system (see Fig. 1 EPG, which shows a method of organizing information in an interactive television system), the method comprising:

selecting a settings menu that includes at least one function corresponding to a location in an environment of the interactive television system (see page 3 lines 56-58 "The viewer enters the Guide Mode illustrated in FIG. 1 by "select" key." When the viewer enters the guide mode by pressing the "select" button, a settings menu is selected that includes function corresponding to locations in an environment of the interactive system);

selecting one of the functions in the settings menu (see col. 17 lines 14-18 "The Parent viewer initially enters the Parental Control Function during initial EPG setup procedures. In the EPG setup procedure, the Parent identifies all viewers of the television, and assigns individual viewer Identifiers. The Parent viewer also establishes a password for said Parent viewer." When a parent sets up the parental control function, the parent is selecting one of the functions in the settings menu provided by the interactive EPG);

if the selected function corresponds to a personalized location, then requiring a verification input, and if the verification input is valid, then permitting a feature in the selected function to be activated (see col. 17 lines 27-36 "In the Parental Control

Function, the Parent selects the channels and programs that can be visible in the Grid Guide for a particular viewer and selects channels and/or programs that are to be blocked from viewing. Child viewers, as identified during setup procedure, will view a simplified Grid Guide and will be blocked from viewing the programs so marked by the Parent. In one embodiment, individual viewers are identified by viewer ID and password." The parental guide is a personalized location and valid verification is requested to access restricted functions);

if the selected function does not correspond to a personalized location, their permitting a feature in the selected function to be activated (When the selected function is not restricted by the parental control function, it is interpreted that the selected function is permitted to be activated); and

if the activated feature is a customizable feature, then permitting input of a name for the activated feature and a directory path to an application associated with the activated feature (see col. 17 lines 14-18 "The Parent viewer initially enters the Parental Control Function during initial EPG setup procedures. In the EPG setup procedure, the Parent identifies all viewers of the television, and assigns individual viewer Identifiers. The Parent viewer also establishes a password for said Parent viewer . . . the Parent selects the channels and programs that can be visible in the Grid Guide for a particular viewer and selects channels and/or programs that are to be blocked from viewing." The parental function is a customizable function, wherein the parent specifies the channels and programs that are to be visible and to which viewers. When the parent specifies

what channel and programs to restrict to children, it is interpreted that the parent has to provide the directory path to the channel and/or program to be restricted.).

30. As for **Claim 30**, Alexander et al. teach an article of manufacture, comprising:

a machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions to (see col. 5 lines 21-52 "One embodiment of the hardware for this invention includes a circuit board consisting of a gate array that provides all of the control functions for access by the processor (e.g., Motorola 68000), control of memory (dynamic RAM and external ROM) . . ." It is interpreted that the hardware for the invention is a machine-readable medium having instructions stored therein to carry out the limitations of the claim):

select a settings menu that includes at least one function corresponding to a location in an environment of the interactive television system (see page 3 lines 56-58 "The viewer enters the Guide Mode illustrated in FIG. 1 by "select" key." When the viewer enters the guide mode by pressing the "select" button, a settings menu is selected that includes function corresponding to locations in an environment of the interactive system);

select one of the functions in the settings menu (see col. 17 lines 14-18 "The Parent viewer initially enters the Parental Control Function during initial EPG setup procedures. In the EPG setup procedure, the Parent identifies all viewers of the television, and assigns individual viewer Identifiers. The Parent viewer also establishes a password for said Parent viewer." When a parent sets up the parental control

function, the parent is selecting one of the functions in the settings menu provided by the interactive EPG);

if the selected function corresponds to a personalized location, then require a verification input, and if the verification input is valid, then permit a feature in the selected function to be activated (see col. 17 lines 27-36 "In the Parental Control Function, the Parent selects the channels and programs that can be visible in the Grid Guide for a particular viewer and selects channels and/or programs that are to be blocked from viewing. Child viewers, as identified during setup procedure, will view a simplified Grid Guide and will be blocked from viewing the programs so marked by the Parent. In one embodiment, individual viewers are identified by viewer ID and password." The parental guide is a personalized location and valid verification is requested to access restricted functions);

if the selected function does not correspond to a personalized location, then permit a feature in the selected function to be activated (When the selected function is not restricted by the parental control function, it is interpreted that the selected function is permitted to be activated); and

if the activated feature is a customizable feature, then permit input of a name for the activated feature and a directory path to an application associated with the activated feature (see col. 17 lines 14-18 "The Parent viewer initially enters the Parental Control Function during initial EPG setup procedures. In the EPG setup procedure, the Parent identifies all viewers of the television, and assigns individual viewer Identifiers. The Parent viewer also establishes a password for said Parent viewer . . . the Parent selects

the channels and programs that can be visible in the Grid Guide for a particular viewer and selects channels and/or programs that are to be blocked from viewing." The parental function is a customizable function, wherein the parent specifies the channels and programs that are to be visible and to which viewers. When the parent specifies what channel and programs to restrict to children, it is interpreted that the parent has to provide the directory path to the channel and/or program to be restricted.).

31. As for **Claim 31**, the limitations of Claim 31 fall within the limitations of Claim 29. Claim 31 further requires means for carrying out the limitations of the Claim. The remote control buttons as presented by Alexander et al. are interpreted to me the means to carry out the limitations of the Claim. See Fig. 2 remote control buttons.

32. As for **Claim 32**, Alexander et al. teach a method of processing information in an interactive television system, the method comprising:

checking a settings table to determine active functions and inactive functions, the active functions and the inactive functions corresponding to associated locations in an environment of the interactive television system (see col. 17 lines 14-18 "The Parent viewer initially enters the Parental Control Function during initial EPG setup procedures. In the EPG setup procedure, the Parent identifies all viewers of the television, and assigns individual viewer Identifiers. The Parent viewer also establishes a password for said Parent viewer . . . the Parent selects the channels and programs that can be visible in the Grid Guide for a particular viewer and selects channels and/or programs that are

to be blocked from viewing." The parent selects which channels are restricted to children and which are not. It is interpreted that when a child is accessing the EPG system, inherently a settings table is checked to determine which channels are restricted to the child, and which are not. Channels that are available to a child are interpreted to be active channels, and those restricted are inactive channels. The listings of the channels in the EPG are locations in the environment of the EPG screen with associated function to display the respective channels for viewing, or recording);

displaying each active function (see col. 17 lines 30-32 "Child viewers, as identified during setup procedure, will view a simplified Grid Guide and will be blocked from viewing the programs so marked by the Parent." The simplified Grid Guide that is available to a child displays each active function, associated with the active channels);

selecting one of the active functions (see col. 4 lines 57-61 "From grid guide 22 the viewer moves to navigation bar 20 by pressing arrow key 28. Initially, the center button is highlighted. To highlight a different button, arrow key 32 or 34 is pressed. To enter the screen represented by the highlighted button, "select" key 42 is pressed." The viewer can use the arrow keys to select one of the active channel functions);

if the selected active function is a personalized function corresponding to a personal location, then requiring a verification input, and if the verification input is valid, then displaying at least one active feature associated with the selected active function (see col. 17 lines 27-36 "In the Parental Control Function, the Parent selects the channels and programs that can be visible in the Grid Guide for a particular viewer and selects channels and/or programs that are to be blocked from viewing. Child viewers,

as identified during setup procedure, will view a simplified Grid Guide and will be blocked from viewing the programs so marked by the Parent. In one embodiment, individual viewers are identified by viewer ID and password." The parental guide is a personalized location and valid verification is requested to access restricted functions);

if the selected active function is not a personalized function, then displaying at least one active feature associated with the selected active function (When the selected function is not restricted by the parental control function, it is interpreted that the selected function is permitted to be activated); and

selecting at least one of the active features and enabling an event associated with the selected active feature (When a viewer selects a channel to view of record, it is interpreted that an event associated with the selected active feature (which may be viewing the channel or recording) is enabled).

33. As for **Claim 33**, the limitations of Claim 33 fall within the limitations of Claim 32. Claim 33 is analyzed and rejected accordingly. Claim 33 further requires: An article of manufacture, comprising: a machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions to carry out the limitations: Alexander et al. teach an article of manufacture, comprising: a machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions to carry out the limitations of the claim. See col. 5 lines 21-52 "One embodiment of the hardware for this invention includes a circuit board consisting of a gate array that provides all of the control functions for access by the processor (e.g., Motorola 68000), control of memory (dynamic RAM and external ROM) . . ." It is interpreted that the hardware for the

invention is a machine-readable medium having instructions stored therein to carry out the limitations of the claim.

34. As for **Claim 34**, the limitations of Claim 34 fall within the limitations of Claim 32. Claim 34 is analyzed and rejected accordingly. Claim 34 further requires means for carrying out the limitations of the Claim. The remote control buttons as presented by Alexander et al. are interpreted to me the means to carry out the limitations of the Claim. See Fig. 2 remote control buttons.

35. As for **Claim 35**, Alexander et al. teach an apparatus for enabling a user interface in an interactive television system (see col. 5 lines 21-52 "One embodiment of the hardware for this invention includes a circuit board consisting of a gate array that provides all of the control functions for access by the processor (e.g., Motorola 68000), control of memory (dynamic RAM and external ROM) . . ."), the apparatus comprising:

a set top box communicatively coupled to the display device and capable to transmit television signals to a display devices the set top box including a user interface engine capable to display a function associated with a location in an environment of the interactive television system (see col. 3 lines 21-25 "one embodiment of a remote controller 26 for activating the functions of display 10 is shown. Remote controller 26 could have other keys for activating the functions of a user video device, such as a television receiver, a VCR, or **a cable box**." Also see fig. 1 unit 10 display and Grid 22, col. 3 lines 1-20 "In FIG. 1, a television screen display 10 is shown . . . The remainder of

the screen area is typically occupied (moving from top to bottom of the screen) by an action key bar 18, a navigation bar 20, a grid guide 22 ("Grid Guide"), and an information box 24 (the "detailed information area)." The display 10 is interpreted to be an environment of the interactive television system and the grid 22 is interpreted to be locations within the environment that have associated functions The cable box is interpreted to be a set-top-box that is coupled to the display device and capable to transmit television signals to a display device. It is also interpreted that when a cable box (or set-top-box) is used in the invention, the user interface engine capable to display the function associated with an environment of the interactive television will be present in the set-top-box);

the set top box further including a controller capable to execute the user interface engine and to enable an event in response to a selection of the function (When a cable box or set-top-box is used in the invention, it is interpreted that a controller capable to execute the user interface engine and enable an event in response to a selection of the function will be inherently present in the said cable box (or set-top-box)).

36. As for **Claim 36**, Alexander et al. teach the function includes at least one feature associated with the location (see col. 4 lines 49-56 "Highlighting of windows and/or viewer selections from the Grid Guide and/or navigation and EPG on screen display components may be accomplished in a number of other ways. For instance, the border of a selected window, or the selected Grid Guide or navigation component, can be

made to appear to flash." Highlighting a grid is interpreted to be a feature of a location in the display environment).

37. As for **Claim 37**, Alexander et al. teach an application associated with the feature, the controller executing the application in response to a selection of the feature (see col. 4 lines 49-56 "In grid guide 22 the viewer moves cursor 36 to highlight one of the nine tiles in which channel and title are displayed by pressing arrow keys 28 and 30. The viewer can view program listings scheduled at future times by pressing keys 32 or 34 to move horizontally about the Grid." The feature of the program guide that shows the listing of future programs is interpreted to be an application that is executed).

38. As for **Claim 38**, Alexander et al. teach selection of the feature provides information associated with the selected feature (see col. 4 lines 49-56 "In grid guide 22 the viewer moves cursor 36 to highlight one of the nine tiles in which channel and title are displayed by pressing arrow keys 28 and 30. The viewer can view program listings scheduled at future times by pressing keys 32 or 34 to move horizontally about the Grid." The listing of the future programs is interpreted to be information associated with the feature).

39. As for **Claim 39**, Alexander et al. teach the user interface engine is capable to check for a verification input if the selected function is associated with a restricted location (see col. 17 lines 27-36 "In the Parental Control Function, the Parent selects

the channels and programs that can be visible in the Grid Guide for a particular viewer and selects channels and/or programs that are to be blocked from viewing. Child viewers, as identified during setup procedure, will view a simplified Grid Guide and will be blocked from viewing the programs so marked by the Parent. In one embodiment, individual viewers are identified by viewer ID and password.").

40. As for **Claim 40**, Alexander et al. teach the user interface engine is capable to set a feature in active state or inactive state (see col. 17 lines 27-36 "In the Parental Control Function, the Parent selects the channels and programs that can be visible in the Grid Guide for a particular viewer and selects channels and/or programs that are to be blocked from viewing. Child viewers, as identified during setup procedure, will view a simplified Grid Guide and will be blocked from viewing the programs so marked by the Parent. In one embodiment, individual viewers are identified by viewer ID and password." The restricted channels and programs that are not accessible to a child are interpreted to be in inactive state while channels and programs that are permissible are interpreted to be in active state. ).

41. As for **Claim 41**, Alexander et al. teach an apparatus for enabling a user interface in an interactive television system, the apparatus comprising:

a remote control device capable to transmit command signals (see Fig. 2 Remote control, col. 2 lines 21-25 "In FIG. 2 of the drawing, one embodiment of a remote controller 26 for activating the functions of display 10 is shown. Remote controller 26

could have other keys for activating the functions of a user video device, such as a television receiver, a VCR, or a cable box.");

a controller (see col. 5 lines 21-45 "One embodiment of the hardware for this invention includes a circuit board consisting of a gate array that provides all of the control functions for access by the processor (e.g., Motorola 68000), control of memory (dynamic RAM and external ROM), . . ." the circuit board that provides all of the control functions is interpreted to be a controller); and

a user interface engine executable by the controller in response to command signals from the remote control device to permit access to a function associated with a location in an environment of the interactive television system (see col. 5 lines 21-45 "Inside there is a module **for creating an on-screen display** including a programmable DMA (direct memory access) controller, a color lookup table that provides for a field called a color index that can be used to select a more complicated color (more bits than can be expressed in the bit map), first-in-first-out ("FIFO") memory for ordering the pixels (which allows the system to write the pixels as fast as the system is capable of writing the pixels and then sending the pixels to the display according to a prescribed timing . . ." It is interpreted that a user interface engine that is executable by the controller is present in the hardware of the invention).

42. As for **Claim 42**, Alexander et al. teach the controller is capable to trigger an event associated with the function in response to a selection of the function (see col. 4 lines 49-56 "Highlighting of windows and/or viewer selections from the Grid Guide and/or

navigation and EPG on screen display components may be accomplished in a number of other ways. For instance, the border of a selected window, or the selected Grid Guide or navigation component, can be made to appear to flash." Highlighting a grid is interpreted to be a feature of a location in the display environment. It is interpreted that the controller is responsible to trigger the event associated with the function in response to a selection of the function.).

Claims **43-51 and 55-65** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kemink et al. (U.S. Patent # 6,563,430).

43. As for **Claim 43**, Kemink et al. teach an apparatus for providing to a user of an interactive television system (see col. 4 lines 15-20 "Assuming, for example, that the information source 240 has access to an electronic television program guide, via for example an Internet connection 230, the names of each program currently available for viewing on the television appliance 210a may be presented to the user for selection via the user interface 110 of the control device 100a."), a home style user interface that is organized according to a plurality of the user's surrounding locations (see col. 3 lines 44-48 "In a graphics based system, the information sources 140, 240 may communicate a floor plan diagram, and the user turns lights on and off in a room by touching the room area in the floor-plan that is displayed on the interface 110."), the apparatus comprising:

a set top box including a storage capable to store information associated with each of a plurality of features, each feature associated with one of the plurality of

locations, the set top box further capable to receive and interpret a command signal and capable to format a television screen layout from the interpreted command signal and capable to transmit the television screen layout (see col. 10 lines 62-67 "In another example, the video control device 100 may be a set-top box, wherein the user interface 110 includes an interface to a television. In this embodiment, the user of this device may view the status of all the controllable appliances in the house from a distance, and control each of these appliances using a hand-held remote, or by using voice commands." See also Fig. 1 Control Device 100. In the embedment where video control device 100 is a set-top-box, it is interpreted that the set top box includes a storage capable to store information associated with each of a plurality of features, each feature associated with one of the plurality of locations, the set top box further capable to receive and interpret a command signal and capable to format a television screen layout from the interpreted command signal and capable to transmit the television screen layout);

a television including a television screen, the television communicatively coupled to the set top box and capable to receive the television screen layout from the set top box and capable to display the television screen layout on the television screen (see col. 10 lines 62-67 "In another example, the video control device 100 may be a set-top box, wherein the user interface 110 includes an interface to a television. In this embodiment, the user of this device may view the status of all the controllable appliances in the house from a distance, and control each of these appliances using a hand-held remote, or by using voice commands."); and

a user input device communicatively coupled to the set top box and capable to capable to detect a user input and capable to convert the user input into the command signal and transmit the command signal to the set top box (see col. 10 lines 62-67 "In another example, the video control device 100 may be a set-top box, wherein the user interface 110 includes an interface to a television. In this embodiment, the user of this device may view the status of all the controllable appliances in the house from a distance, and control each of these appliances using **a hand-held remote**, or by using voice commands." The hand-held remote is interpreted to be a user input device communicatively coupled to the set top box and capable to capable to detect a user input and capable to convert the user input into the command signal and transmit the command signal to the set top box).

44. As for **Claim 44**, Kemink et al. teach the plurality of locations is a plurality of rooms in a building (see col. 8 lines 40-50 "For each location area that was defined in the loop 410-419, the set of commands for the controllable device being processed are defined, in the loop 430-439. Consider, for example, the aforementioned television appliance 210a that is located in the family room 350 of FIG. 2. Within the **family room** location area 350, full control of the television appliance 210a is appropriate; within the **bedroom** 340, however, perhaps the only options that are appropriate are power and volume commands. Similarly, from the **library area 330**, no options for control of television appliance 210a may be appropriate." It is interpreted the plurality of locations can be rooms in a building).

45. As for **Claim 45**, Kemink et al. teach the plurality of locations is a plurality of rooms in a dwelling (see col. 8 lines 40-50 "For each location area that was defined in the loop 410-419, the set of commands for the controllable device being processed are defined, in the loop 430-439. Consider, for example, the aforementioned television appliance 210a that is located in the family room 350 of FIG. 2. Within the **family room** location area 350, full control of the television appliance 210a is appropriate; within the **bedroom** 340, however, perhaps the only options that are appropriate are power and volume commands. Similarly, from the **library area 330**, no options for control of television appliance 210a may be appropriate." It is interpreted the plurality of locations can be rooms in a dwelling).

46. As for **Claim 46**, Kemink et al. teach the information associated with each feature includes indicia of whether the feature is active or inactive. See col. 8 lines 40-50 "For each location area that was defined in the loop 410-419, the set of commands for the controllable device being processed are defined, in the loop 430-439. Consider, for example, the aforementioned television appliance 210a that is located in the family room 350 of FIG. 2. Within the **family room** location area 350, **full control of the television appliance 210a is appropriate**; within the **bedroom** 340, however, **perhaps the only options that are appropriate are power and volume commands**. Similarly, from the **library area 330**, **no options for control of television appliance 210a may be appropriate.**" It is interpreted that full control features of the television are active in

the family room, wherein only power and volume commands are active in the bedroom, implying the rest of the functions are inactive in the bedroom, and all features of the television are inactive in the library.

47. As for **Claim 47**, Kemink et al. teach the set top box is further capable to update the indicia of whether the feature is active or inactive based upon the command signal received from the user input device. See col. 8 lines 57-66 "For example, when the control device 100 is located in the family room, the user interface information associated with the power control of the television appliance 210a may be a simple "TV on/off" message. When the control device 100 is brought into the bedroom 240, however, the message for the same power control of the television appliance 210a may be a "Fam TV on/off" message, to distinguish the television appliance 210a in the family room from the television appliance 210b in the bedroom 240." And col. 7 lines 32-49 "as the user travels from room to room, the control device 100 will automatically receive the remote commands and format that are appropriate to the particular television in each room from the information source 140, 240 . . . by storing the appropriate operational commands and formats for each option of each appliance in a local 140 or remote 240 information source, and associating the options or a subset of the options of each appliance to particular locations, the control device 100 can be reprogrammed to effect each option, in dependence upon its location.". When the control device 100 is moved from the family room to the bedroom, it is interpreted that the set top box is capable to update the indicia of the active and inactive features.

48. As for **Claim 48**, Kemink et al. teach the information associated with each feature includes information about an executable application that is invoked when the feature is active and when the user selects the feature. See col. 5 lines 56-62 "the user interface 110 may provide a "location" option, wherein the user selects from among a predefined list of named locations; alternatively, the control device 100 could contain a voice recognition device, and the user could say the name of a location, such as "kitchen", "master bedroom", etc., that is used by the location sensor 130 to determine the location parameter 131." It is inherent that the information associated with each feature will include an executable application (such as an application to recognize voice) that is invoked when the feature is active and when the user selects the feature.

49. As for **Claim 49**, Kemink et al. teach the set top box is further capable to update the information about an executable application based upon the command signal received from the user input device. See col. 5 lines 19-27 "the associated user of control device 100a may have particular preferences with regard to channels or programs to watch on the television appliance 210a. In this example, the aforementioned list of channels or names of programs presented to the user for the television appliance 210a will be filtered to only provide those of interest to the particular user, or sorted to provide the entire list, but in the order of the particular user's preferences." It is interpreted that the set top box is capable of update information related to executable application based on the preference of a user that the user inputs into the system.

50. As for **Claim 50**, Kemink et al. teach the set top box storage is further capable to store a name associated with one of the locations. See col. 5 lines 56-62 "the user interface 110 may provide a "location" option, wherein the user selects from among a predefined list of named locations; alternatively, the control device 100 could contain a voice recognition device, and the user could say the name of a location, such as "**kitchen**", "**master bedroom**", etc., that is used by the location sensor 130 to determine the location parameter 131." "Kitchen" and "master bedroom" are names associated with location that the set top box would need to store in order to recognize a user command.

51. As for **Claim 51**, Kemink et al. teach the set top box is further capable to update the name associated with the location. See col. 5 lines 19-27 "the associated user of control device 100a may have particular preferences with regard to channels or programs to watch on the television appliance 210a. In this example, the aforementioned list of channels or names of programs presented to the user for the television appliance 210a will be filtered to only provide those of interest to the particular user, or sorted to provide the entire list, but in the order of the particular user's preferences." It is interpreted that the set top box is capable of update information related to executable application, such as a name associated with a location, based on the preference of a user that the user inputs into the system.

52. As for **Claim 55**, Kemink et al. teach the information associated with each of a plurality of features is stored in a settings table comprising a plurality of table entries, each table entry associated with one of the plurality of features and further associated with one of the plurality of locations.

53. As for **Claim 56**, Kemink et al. teach the set top box is further capable to:

determine which of the plurality of features are active (see col. 7 lines 32-42 "In accordance with this invention, however, as the user travels from room to room, the control device 100 will automatically receive the remote commands and format that are appropriate to the particular television in each room from the information source 140, 240." It is interpreted that the set top box will be able to determine which of the plurality of features are active and inactive as the user travels from room to room); and

format the television screen layout to include features of the plurality of features that are active (see col. 7 lines 43-49 "by storing the appropriate operational commands and formats for each option of each appliance in a local 140 or remote 240 information source, and associating the options or a subset of the options of each appliance to particular locations, the control device 100 can be reprogrammed to effect each option, in dependence upon its location.").

54. As for **Claim 57**, Kemink et al. teach the set top box is further capable to:

determine which features of the plurality of features are associated with one of the plurality of locations (see col. 7 lines 32-42 "In accordance with this invention,

however, as the user travels from room to room, the control device 100 will automatically receive the remote commands and format that are appropriate to the particular television in each room from the information source 140, 240." It is interpreted that the set top box will be able to determine which of the plurality of features are associated with the plurality of locations as the user travels from room to room);

determine which features of the plurality of features associated with the one of the plurality of locations are active (see col. 7 lines 32-42 "In accordance with this invention, however, as the user travels from room to room, the control device 100 will automatically receive the remote commands and format that are appropriate to the particular television in each room from the information source 140, 240." It is interpreted that the set top box will be able to determine which of the plurality of features are active and inactive as the user travels from room to room); and

format a television screen layout including those features associated with the one of the plurality of locations that are also active (see col. 7 lines 43-49 "by storing the appropriate operational commands and formats for each option of each appliance in a local 140 or remote 240 information source, and associating the options or a subset of the options of each appliance to particular locations, the control device 100 can be reprogrammed to effect each option, in dependence upon its location.")

55. As for **Claim 58**, Kemink et al. teach a method of providing a home-style user interface to a user of an interactive television system, the method comprising:

displaying at least one active feature associated with one of a plurality of the user's surrounding locations (see col. 7 lines 32-42 "In accordance with this invention, however, as the user travels from room to room, the control device 100 will automatically receive the remote commands and format that are appropriate to the particular television in each room from the information source 140, 240." It is interpreted that at least one active feature associated with a location will be displayed to the user);

accepting user input including a selection of one of the at least one active feature (see col. 6 lines 44-49 "When the user selects a user option associated with the context sensitive information 241, only the index of the selected item in the list or diagram is communicated as an operational command from the communicator 120 to the remote information source 240."); and

invoking an executable application associated with the selected active feature (see col. 6 lines 49-52 "The remote information source 240 then executes the control commands that correspond to the communicated operational command from the communicator 120 to effect the selected option.").

56. As for **Claim 59**, Kemink et al. teach:

displaying indicia of each of the plurality of locations that has at least one associated active feature (see col. 5 lines 56-58 "For example, the user interface 110 may provide a "location" option, wherein the user selects from among a predefined list of named locations"); and

accepting user input including a selection of indicia for one of the plurality of locations that has at least one associated active feature (see col. 5 lines 56-58 "For example, the user interface 110 may provide a "location" option, wherein **the user selects from among a predefined list of named locations**); and wherein:

the displaying of the indicia of each of the plurality of active features comprises displaying each active feature associated with the selected one of the locations (When the user selects a specific location, it is interpreted that the plurality of active features for that location are displayed).

57. As for **Claim 60**, Kemink et al. teach an article of manufacture, comprising:

a machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions to (see col. 6 lines 57-65 "Other standards and protocols provide similar control commands, and would be familiar to one of ordinary skill in the art. Alternatively, in a hypertext, HTML, or similar environment, the selection of an item on the HTML page that is presented to the user interface 110 effects a communication of the commands that are associated with the selected item in the HTML document, for example, commands to execute a program that contains the above Basic command."):

display at least one active feature associated with one of a plurality of a interactive television system user's everyday surroundings (see col. 7 lines 32-42 "In accordance with this invention, however, as the user travels from room to room, the control device 100 will automatically receive the remote commands and format that are appropriate to the particular television in each room from the information source 140,

240." It is interpreted that at least one active feature associated with a location will be displayed to the user);

accept user input including a selection of one of the at least one active feature (see col. 6 lines 44-49 "When the user selects a user option associated with the context sensitive information 241, only the index of the selected item in the list or diagram is communicated as an operational command from the communicator 120 to the remote information source 240.");

and invoke an executable application associated with the selected active feature (see col. 6 lines 49-52 "The remote information source 240 then executes the control commands that correspond to the communicated operational command from the communicator 120 to effect the selected option.").

58. As for **Claim 61**, Kemink et al. teach the machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions:

further comprises instructions to:

display indicia of each of the plurality of locations that has at least one associated active feature (see col. 5 lines 56-58 "For example, the user interface 110 may provide a "location" option, wherein the user selects from among a predefined list of named locations"); and

accept user input including a selection of indicia for one of the plurality of locations that has at least one associated active feature (see col. 5 lines 56-58 "For

example, the user interface 110 may provide a "location" option, wherein **the user selects from among a predefined list of named locations**); and

wherein the instruction to display of the plurality of active features comprises an instruction to display each active feature associated with the selected one of the locations (When the user selects a specific location, it is interpreted that the plurality of active features for that location are displayed).

59. As for **Claim 62**, the limitations of Claim 62 fall within the limitations of Claim 58. Claim 62 is analyzed and rejected accordingly. Claim 62 further requires means to carry out the limitations of the claim. See Fig. 1, Control Device 100 is means to carry out the limitations of the Claim.

60. As for **Claim 63**, Kemink et al. teach a method of customizing a home-style user interface provided for a user of an interactive television system, the method comprising:

storing a status indicator for each of at least one feature associated with one of a plurality of the user's surrounding locations, the status indicator including information about whether the feature is active or inactive (see col. 7 lines 43-49 "by storing the appropriate operational commands and formats for each option of each appliance in a local 140 or remote 240 information source, and associating the options or a subset of the options of each appliance to particular locations, the control device 100 can be reprogrammed to effect each option, in dependence upon its location.");

displaying setup indicia associated with the feature, the setup indicia including the status indicator information about whether the feature is active or inactive (see col. 8 lines 57-66 "when the control device 100 is located in the family room, the user interface information associated with the power control of the television appliance 210a may be a simple "TV on/off" message. When the control device 100 is brought into the bedroom 240, however, the message for the same power control of the television appliance 210a may be a "Fam TV on/off" message, to distinguish the television appliance 210a in the family room from the television appliance 210b in the bedroom 240." The user interface is also interpreted to be setup indicia because a user uses the user interface in order to set up the status of a device from active to inactive. For example, when a television is on, active features associated with the television could include features such as channel up/down, volume,etc. However, when a user turns the television off, the active features present on the user interface would be only TV on/off (because a user cannot turn the volume up/down or change channels when the television is off. See col. 4 lines 23-30 "Subsets of menus of options may also be provided. For example, if the television appliance 210b in the bedroom 340 is turned on when the user is at the entry 310, the control device 100a may present the user the option to turn the television 210b off before exiting the house 300. Other options for the television 210b, such as channel selection, need not be presented if the user is in the entry area 310, or if the television 210b is not turned on."). The presence of a feature is interpreted to be a indication that the feature is active for the particular device, and the non-presence of a feature for a particular device is interpreted to be an inactive indication of the feature.);

selecting the setup indicia associated with the feature (see col. 5 lines 56-58 "For example, the user interface 110 may provide a "location" option, wherein **the user selects from among a predefined list of named locations**); and

updating the status indicator for the feature from active to inactive, or from inactive to active (see col. 7 lines 43-49 "by storing the appropriate operational commands and formats for each option of each appliance in a local 140 or remote 240 information source, and associating the options or a subset of the options of each appliance to particular locations, the control device 100 can be reprogrammed to effect each option, in dependence upon its location.").

61. As for **Claim 64**, Kemink et al. teach an article of manufacture, comprising:

a machine-readable medium having stored thereon (see col. 6 lines 57-65 "Other standards and protocols provide similar control commands, and would be familiar to one of ordinary skill in the art. Alternatively, in a hypertext, HTML, or similar environment, the selection of an item on the HTML page that is presented to the user interface 110 effects a communication of the commands that are associated with the selected item in the HTML document, for example, commands to execute a program that contains the above Basic command.") instructions to:

store a status indicator for each of at least one feature associated with one of a plurality of an interactive television system user's surrounding locations, the status indicator including information about whether the feature is active or inactive (see col. 7 lines 43-49 "by storing the appropriate operational commands and formats for each

option of each appliance in a local 140 or remote 240 information source, and associating the options or a subset of the options of each appliance to particular locations, the control device 100 can be reprogrammed to effect each option, in dependence upon its location.");

display setup indicia associated with the feature, the setup indicia including the status indicator information about whether the feature is active or inactive (see col. 8 lines 57-66 "when the control device 100 is located in the family room, the user interface information associated with the power control of the television appliance 210a may be a simple "TV on/off" message. When the control device 100 is brought into the bedroom 240, however, the message for the same power control of the television appliance 210a may be a "Fam TV on/off" message, to distinguish the television appliance 210a in the family room from the television appliance 210b in the bedroom 240." The user interface is also interpreted to be setup indicia because a user uses the user interface in order to set up the status of a device from active to inactive. For example, when a television is on, active features associated with the television could include features such as channel up/down, volume,etc. However, when a user turns the television off, the active features present on the user interface would be only TV on/off (because a user cannot turn the volume up/down or change channels when the television is off. See col. 4 lines 23-30 "Subsets of menus of options may also be provided. For example, if the television appliance 210b in the bedroom 340 is turned on when the user is at the entry 310, the control device 100a may present the user the option to turn the television 210b off before exiting the house 300. Other options for the television 210b, such as channel

selection, need not be presented if the user is in the entry area 310, or if the television 210b is not turned on."). The presence of a feature is interpreted to be a indication that the feature is active for the particular device, and the non-presence of a feature for a particular device is interpreted to be an inactive indication of the feature.);

accept user input including a selection of the setup indicia associated with the feature (see col. 5 lines 56-58 "For example, the user interface 110 may provide a "location" option, wherein **the user selects from among a predefined list of named locations**); and

update the status indicator for the feature from active to inactive, or from inactive to active (see col. 7 lines 43-49 "by storing the appropriate operational commands and formats for each option of each appliance in a local 140 or remote 240 information source, and associating the options or a subset of the options of each appliance to particular locations, the control device 100 can be reprogrammed to effect each option, in dependence upon its location.").

62. As for **Claim 65**, the limitations of Claim 65 fall within the limitations of Claim 64. Claim 65 is analyzed and rejected accordingly. Claim 65 further requires means to carry out the limitations of the claim. See Fig. 1, Control Device 100 is means to carry out the limitations of the Claim.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims **52-54** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kemink et al. (U.S. Patent # 6,563,430).

63. As for **Claim 52**, Kemink et al. do not expressly teach the set top box storage is further capable to store indicia of whether at least one of the plurality of locations is password protected. Kemink et al. do however teach that user can have individual preference with regards to channels or programs to watch on the television appliances (See col. 5 lines 19-27 "the associated user of control device 100a may have particular preferences with regard to channels or programs to watch on the television appliance 210a. In this example, the aforementioned list of channels or names of programs presented to the user for the television appliance 210a will be filtered to only provide those of interest to the particular user, or sorted to provide the entire list, but in the order of the particular user's preferences."). However, Official Notice (MPEP § 2144.03) is taken that both the concepts and advantages of using password protection are well known and expected in the art. At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to modify Kemink et al. by having passwords to protect features related to specific locations in order to distinguish one user's

preference from another's. Passwords can also be used to restrict access to certain user some locations that might contain valuable items, such as a bedroom.

64. As for **Claim 53**, the modified Kemink et al. teach the set top box storage is further capable to store a password associated with one of the plurality of locations. It is interpreted that passwords will be associated with one or more of the plurality of locations in order to restrict access to certain locations, such as a bedroom.

65. As for **Claim 54**, the modified Kemink et al. teach the set top box is further capable to provide user access to each of the plurality of features associated with one of the plurality of locations that is password protected, if the interpretation of the command signal received from the user input device results in a determination that the user has entered the password associated with the one of the plurality of locations. It is interpreted that when a user inputs a correct password for a location that requires a password, the set top box would provide user access to the specified location.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kirubel Aklilu whose telephone number is 571-272-7342. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00AM - 5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Kelly can be reached on 571-272-7331. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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NGOC-YEN VU
PRIMARY EXAMINER